

“Whatever Trump did must be wrong.” And by the way, the Trump guys, by and large, said, “Whatever Obama did must be wrong.” That is not a new thing. Whenever you have a change in an administration, that tends to be a default position. But what I urged them to do is, just because that is your knee-jerk instinct, this was a massive bipartisan victory for America, a national security victory that we won that Joe Biden is on the verge of throwing away.

The Secretary of State sat in my office and promised to fight to sanction Nord Stream 2. The Deputy Secretary of State sat in my office and promised to fight to sanction Nord Stream 2. The Under Secretary of State sat in my office and promised to fight to sanction Nord Stream 2. They did, in fact, fight to sanction Nord Stream 2, but unfortunately they were overruled by the White House, which made a political decision to give in to Putin.

In those circumstances, when you are defying explicit U.S. law, when you are defying the overwhelming bipartisan consensus of Congress, and when you are endangering U.S. national security and, indeed, turning a victory into a loss, I think it is appropriate to use the tools we have in front of us.

That being said, I have engaged in active negotiation with the Biden administration. In the past week, I have had conversations on this topic with the Secretary of the Treasury, with the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, with the National Security Advisor. I have had conversations with multiple Democratic Senators about a path forward.

But I will tell you what the path forward is not going to be. It is not going to be, let's roll over, give Putin his pipeline, and accept a massive national security loss for America. If that is where Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS want to go, they can go there, but they are not going to go there with my acquiescence, and I am going to use every tool I have as a Senator, elected by the people of Texas, to prevent that outcome.

Accordingly, because Joe Biden's decision to defy U.S. law; to defy the overwhelming bipartisan consensus of Congress; to surrender to Vladimir Putin; to give him his No. 1 priority—a multibillion-dollar pipeline that will provide billions of dollars of rewards for Russia for decades to come—because that decision is a generational geopolitical mistake on the order of magnitude of Jimmy Carter giving away the Panama Canal—that even 50 years later, the consequences of that geopolitical mistake still reverberate—50 years from now, Russian dictators will benefit from Joe Biden's weakness on Russia.

Because that strengthens Russia, because it empowers Russia to attack our enemies, to extort our enemies, to engage in economic blackmail against our enemies—our allies, rather—because our allies are begging us not to do this—I have met with senior offi-

cials of the Ukraine. The Ukrainians are begging us not to do this, and the Biden White House is threatening Ukraine: Keep your mouth shut because we have a political objective here.

Because that strengthens Russia at the expense of the United States, at the expense of Europe, at the expense of our allies, because it destroys jobs in America, and because it endangers U.S. national security, I emphatically object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I understand the Senator believes he has such a serious objection to administration policy that it merits this exceptional tactic. I would submit, as I move into closing business, that it is not the biggest disagreement that a Senator has had with an administration. It is not the biggest disagreement that a group of Senators has had with an administration. To believe that would be to elevate this dispute beyond its merits. That is not to suggest it isn't significant, but it is not the most significant disagreement that an individual Senator has ever had with an administration.

What is exceptional is his tactic. Never before has a U.S. Senator used their power in this way to hold up this many nominees at such a critical moment. That is what is exceptional. That is what makes this moment so dangerous. That is why Senator MENENDEZ and I came down to the floor to try to unlock some of these nominees toward confirmation, because it is the tactic, not the disagreement, that is the exception.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 268, 321, 189, 247, 267, 270, 344, 301, 295, 296, 297, 298, and 299; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jennifer Lester Moffitt, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs; Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary

and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States; Taryn Mackenzie Williams, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; Alejandra Y. Castillo, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development; Andrew Eilperin Light, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs); Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; the following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601: to be General, Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson; Damon Y. Smith, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Evelyn M. Fujimoto, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2022; Lori Peek, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2022; Kimberly L. Jones, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2023; William E. Holloway, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2021; and William E. Holloway, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2024 (Reappointment)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL CATFISH MONTH

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 353, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 353) designating August 2021 as “National Catfish Month”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 353) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILITARY AVIATION IN INDIANA

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 354, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 354) celebrating the 100th Anniversary of military aviation in Indiana.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 354) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yesterday, the Democrats unveiled their reckless tax and spend budget plan.

With our country experiencing the highest inflation it has seen in decades and our national debt approaching an alltime high, common sense would dictate that we ought to use the budget process to get our fiscal house in order.

Instead, my Democrat colleagues are intent on using the budget to embark on a liberal wish list spending spree.

My Democrat colleagues' budget calls for over \$4 trillion in new spending over the next decade and annual deficits would average \$1.6 trillion over that period. As a result, the national debt would reach 119 percent of our economy, shattering the World War II record of 106 percent.

Much of this new spending, ballooning the debt and deficits, is the product of a single bill Democrats hope to pass before the end of the year under the guise of so-called "human infrastructure."

Infrastructure is popular and needed. It helps keep our economy competitive over the long run. That is why Democrat leaders initially wanted their multitrillion dollar wish list to ride

along on an infrastructure package. That plan fell apart when a bipartisan group was able to agree on a separate bill with just real infrastructure.

This new spending spree, far from being an infrastructure bill like the bipartisan bill, has nothing to do with building roads or bridges. Instead, it would create massive new entitlements and impose massive new tax increases.

This mishmash of massive new spending and job-killing tax hikes would act as a double whammy on middle-income Americans, small business owners, and farmers.

Trillions of dollars in new spending is likely to set inflation ablaze. Inflation is a stealth tax that steals the value of the dollars Americans already earned. Hard-working Americans are already paying the price of excessive spending in the form of inflation with prices rising throughout the economy.

As a result, while wages increased at a pace of 3.6 percent last month, Americans found themselves struggling to keep their heads above water with prices soaring 5.4 percent.

Now, Democrats want to add tax hikes on top of this, which will slow economic growth, reduce business investment, and result in lower wages and fewer jobs over the long-run.

What is more, the tax hikes that are being discussed take direct aim at family run business and farms.

This includes raising their income taxes, their capital gains taxes, and imposing a confiscatory new death tax when operations are passed to the next generation.

Higher taxes, excessive spending, and escalating debt are not a prescription for prosperity. They are instead are a recipe for fiscal disaster.

I urge my Democrat colleagues to tap the brakes before it is too late.

Please think about the future and abandon your reckless tax and spend agenda.

EVICTION MORATORIUM

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following notice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention related to an eviction moratorium be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions in Communities With Substantial or High Transmission of COVID-19 To Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Agency Order.

SUMMARY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), located within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces a new Order under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act to temporarily halt residential evictions in

communities with substantial or high transmission of COVID-19 to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

DATES: This Order is effective August 3, 2021 through October 3, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tiffany Brown, Deputy Chief of Staff, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21-10, Atlanta, GA 30329. Phone: 404-639-7000. Email: cdceregulations@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 4, 2020, the CDC Director issued an Order temporarily halting evictions in the United States for the reasons described therein. That Order was set to expire on December 31, 2020, subject to further extension, modification, or rescission. Section 502 of Title V, Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 extended the Order until January 31, 2021, and approved the Order as an exercise of the CDC's authority under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264). With the extension of the Order, Congress also provided \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance for the payment of rent and rental arrears. Congress later provided an additional \$21.55 billion in emergency rental assistance when it passed the American Rescue Plan. The Order was extended multiple times due to the changing public health landscape and expired on July 31, 2021 after what was intended to be the final extension. Absent an unexpected change in the trajectory of the pandemic, CDC did not plan to extend the Order further.

Following the recent surge in cases brought forth by the highly transmissible Delta variant, the CDC Director now issues a new Order temporarily halting evictions for persons in counties or U.S. territories experiencing substantial or high rates of transmission, for the reasons described herein. It is more limited in scope than prior orders, intended to target specific areas of the country where cases are rapidly increasing, which likely would be exacerbated by mass evictions.

Accordingly, subject to the limitations listed in the new Order, a landlord, owner of a residential property, or person with a legal right to pursue eviction or possessory action, shall not evict any covered person from any residential property in any county or U.S. territory while the county or territory is experiencing substantial or high levels of community transmission levels of SARS-CoV-2. This Order will expire on October 3, 2021, but is subject to further extension, modification, or rescission based on public health circumstances.

A copy of the Order is provided below. A copy of the signed Order and Declaration form can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-eviction-declaration.html>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
Department of Health and Human Services

Order Under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264) and 42 Code of Federal Regulations 70.2

Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions in Communities With Substantial or High Levels of Community Transmission of COVID-19 To Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19

Summary

The U.S. Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) is issuing a new order temporarily halting evictions in counties with heightened levels of community transmission in order to respond to recent, unexpected developments in the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the rise of the Delta